

encroachments on their privileges no longer, and to bind themselves to mutual support of their rights. They disowned any jurisdiction prejudicial to their rights, and insisted that all disputes affecting their order should be settled by courts composed exclusively of their peers. This did not look very revolutionary, but Sickingen, who was elected Captain-General of the League, gave a more aggressive turn to the movement by publishing a manifesto to the people of Treves, declaring his determination to deliver them from "the heavy anti-christian yoke of the priesthood, and lead them to evangelical freedom," and by forthwith marching against the elector with 1,500 horse and 5,000 foot. Richard von Greiffenklau, the bellicose archbishop of Treves, was not minded to be made the first victim of this politico-religious revolution, and defended his walls so stoutly that Sickingen was fain to retire baffled, to be in his turn besieged in his castle of Landstuhl by the elector and his allies, the Elector Palatine and the Margrave of Hesse, and mortally wounded while standing in the breach with his face to the foe. His premature death, the flight of Hutten to Switzerland, and the expedition of the Suabian Bund against the Franconian nobility gave the quietus to a movement which, even had it succeeded, would not have inaugurated the political millennium dreamed of by its impulsive organiser. "Even at that time," judges Ranke, "it was perceived that if the power of the princes was overthrown and the constitution of the empire broken up, nothing was to be expected but an exclusive, violent, and, at the same time, self-conflicting rule of the nobles." In the case of poor Hutten, the revolution had certainly not been a success. He, too, soon afterwards ended his stormy career at the age of thirty-four. "He left," says his friend Zwingli, pathetically, "nothing of any value; he had neither books nor furniture; nothing but a pen."

What had become of the other member of the revolutionary triad—of Luther, whose language in his zeal against Antichrist had occasionally been as impulsive as that of Hutten? Luther, on his side, had fought a great fight at Worms, and, though apparently defeated, had triumphed single-handed— one against nearly all the world as represented by the majority of the Diet. He assuredly cannot be accused of weakness or